SITUATION REPORT 2: DPR Korea Flooding
Emergency Events Alert and Response
28 September 2016

Situation Analysis:

The Humanitarian County Team (HCT) is supporting the Government’s response, initially releasing relief materials including food, nutrition supplements, shelter kits, water purification and sanitation, health and education supplies. Building on the initial response, the HCT is targeting 600000 people to address needs in food security, nutrition, shelter, health, water, sanitation and hygiene and education.

The approaching winter season is an additional challenge for the relief agencies along with the mountainous terrain and inaccessibility to affected areas because of damaged infrastructure.

Response:

Joint Assessment Team comprising of Representatives of WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, along with National Professional Officers, Technical officers of WFP and UNDP and several senior officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited the flood affected Yonsa County and the Musan County of the North Hamgyong Province from 20th to 23rd September 2016.

Dr Arturo Pesigan, WHO SEARO Regional Adviser, Emergency Risk Management is visiting DPR Korea during 24 Sep- 06 Oct 2016. He is now travelling to the North Hamgyong Province for the emergency assessment.

General Observation:

- Accessibility to affected areas including Ris is critical.
- Structural damage was significant and spanned across a large area.
- Relief items supplied by international agencies have reached affected populations.
- Relief efforts by a visible influx of a large number of workers, soldiers and volunteers, were observed. The provincial authorities mentioned that a force of 200 000 people have been mobilized to provide immediate relief efforts before the winter sets in. (end of October)

Key priority areas for the international community to support the Government response:

- Urgent shelter support in view of the oncoming winter
- Essential medicines and health supplies, and rehabilitation of affected health facilities
- Clean water and sanitation solutions to the affected population
- Nutritious food and intervention for prevention and treatment of malnutrition
- Children should be able to attend school in a safe and suitable environment

Health situation/challenges

- **Commitment of provincial and county level authorities:** The commitment and eagerness of provincial and county level authorities to manage the health sector response seems to be very...
high. Timely technical guidance from the Centre will help them to ensure an effective response in the affected areas.

- **Destruction of health facilities:** Some of the primary level health facilities have been completely destroyed. All of the equipment, supplies and medicine stocks were washed away by the floods. Two county hospitals were severely affected.

- **Need for life saving medicines and supplies:** The health facilities (two county hospitals and two Ri clinics) had very few basic supplies and medicines which had been provided during the last week through emergency response by UN agencies including WHO. Because of the increase in the case load, the supplies may still be inadequate.

- **Need to establish a disease surveillance system for daily reporting:** At the ground level there was evidence of diarrhea and acute respiratory infection (ARI). Provincial authorities may not have been aware of the situation probably due to lack of a regular reporting mechanism. Surveillance and reporting system focusing on communicable diseases such as diarrhea, ARI and measles is required.

- **Need for essential supplies and medicines for referral care:** Out of the two secondary care (county) hospitals, one was affected by the flood. The facilities including equipment and medicines were inadequate to provide referral services to the population.

- **Distribution of emergency stocks:** Comprehensive IEHKs have been distributed to different PHC facilities, in spite of advice that they should reach the referral hospitals as a single unit. There seems to be a delay (about 10-15 days) of the delivery of WHO supplies to the affected health facilities.

The following is the distribution of health supplies by Agency (as of 26 September):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplied items</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Quantity till date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK)</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essential medicines kits</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORS</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
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The Health Sector Working Group (headed by WHO) identified the following 4 objectives to be attained in the flood affected area in the next 3-6 months. Activity plan to attain these objectives and the deliverables has also been drafted.

**Objective 1:** *No person including children or pregnant mothers in affected area should die of communicable diseases or due to child birth related causes.*

- A functional cold chain and vaccine delivery system made available in the affected areas
- Catch-up vaccination campaigns carried out to ensure vaccination of eligible children who may have missed scheduled vaccination due to the flood
- The ‘Communicable Disease Surveillance and response System’ in affected counties (special emphasis on measles) further strengthened to enable regular reporting
- Safe delivery services by Skilled Birth Attendants/midwives in affected areas ensured
- Implementation of the MISP (Minimum Initial Service Package, including dignity kits) for Reproductive Health in Emergencies ensured
- Emergency obstetric and neonatal care services including patient transportation services are made available
Objective 2: The health system in affected areas is adequately prepared for early detection, response and control of any outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory tract infections or measles among the affected population

- Safe water and sanitation is available in all health facilities of affected counties.
- Medicines needed to manage diarrhoeal diseases, including ORS are available in all health facilities of affected counties.
- Appropriate medicines including few basic antibiotics and equipment are made available at each level of health facilities to manage acute respiratory infections (ARIs).
- Measles-rubella surveillance intensified and immediate outbreak response immunization conducted in case of laboratory confirmation of even a single case of measles.

Objective 3: The basic, primary level health care services should be made available to people in the affected areas

- Primary Health Care institutions (Ri hospitals and Ri clinics) are equipped with basic life-saving medicines and equipment.
- Damaged and destroyed health care institutions are restored and made functional with basic equipment and lifesaving medicines.
- Life-saving medicines and equipment are made available at county hospitals (referral hospitals) in the affected area.
- House Hold Doctors (HHD) in the affected area are equipped with HHD kits.
- The Government’s capacity for management of emergency relief supplies is further strengthened through appropriate warehousing, storage and distribution of essential medical equipment and supplies, including cold chain.
- The affected counties ensure un-interrupted management of tuberculosis.

Objective 4: The specific health needs of vulnerable groups including children, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, elderly population and people with disabilities in the affected areas are identified and met.

- Children, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers in the affected areas have access to necessary interventions including nutritional supplements as appropriate.
- All pregnant and lactating mothers in the affected areas are provided with Reproductive Health (RH) kits as appropriate.
- MISP (Minimum Initial Service Package) for RH in emergencies, including provision of Emergency Obstetric Care (EMoC) implemented in the six affected counties.
The essential health needs of elderly and disabled populations in the affected areas are identified and met.

Important Contacts:

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<tr>
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Sources of Information:

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDcJL78sW6Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDcJL78sW6Y)
- [http://english.cri.cn/12394/2016/09/02/3521s939109.htm](http://english.cri.cn/12394/2016/09/02/3521s939109.htm)
- [http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/PRK_floodsnapshot_160911.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/PRK_floodsnapshot_160911.pdf)
- Reports from the Joint Assessment Mission.